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MISCELLANEOUS.

I.—*Museum for American Antiquities, instituted in Copenhagen by the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, according to a plan proposed by its Secretary, CHARLES C. RAFN. Communicated by Prof. Rafn, Cor. Mem. R.G.S. of London, &c.*

[The subject of the present article, though not, strictly speaking, Geographical, belongs to a science closely allied to Geography, and by most persons considered as forming an essential branch of it, Ethnology. It is certain that a mere knowledge of the earth, independent of its inhabitants, would be of comparatively small interest; and therefore the present paper, tending as it does to throw light on the ancient dispersion of the same race over distant parts of the globe, may well find a place among the miscellaneous matter of our Journal.—ED.]

THE object of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, viz., the exploring, examining, and bringing to notice everything which throws light on the olden time of the North, naturally led it to devote special attention to Greenland, where we have historical evidence of an early colony of Northmen, who have since entirely disappeared, and have been replaced by Esquimaux; and whose traces therefore can only be discovered by excavations, and researches in places, some of which are no longer inhabited. For the furtherance of this object the Society thought it right to employ some of the means which were placed at its disposal; and the result of the journeys and excavations performed in consequence, has been the acquisition of a tolerably rich store of materials, which, serving to throw light on the Northmen's colonization of Greenland, are well worthy of being admitted into a collection of Northern antiquities. It required, however, a close examination and comparison before it was possible to pronounce with any degree of certainty as to which of the articles were of Scandinavian origin, and which of them belonged to the earlier Esquimaux, who, before the European came a second time to Greenland, must have been obliged to make use of very imperfect implements and materials. It was also very interesting and instructive to observe how the Europeans, under the impulse of climate and locality, had been compelled to employ either different implements from those which they had used at home, or the same implements, but in a different manner. Nothing could

better serve as a clue in these investigations than the Esquimaux articles found in the same districts, for although they have long ceased to be employed in the country, they are well adapted to receive illustration from the objects which have replaced them; seeing that these latter, though made of a different material, have in most cases been allowed to retain the same form. Consequently the Society took every pains to procure and collect as many as possible of the Esquimaux antiquities, which, along with the Scandinavian ones above mentioned, now form a *Collection of Greenland Antiquities*.

As we have historical evidence that a colony of Northmen went from Greenland to the eastern coast of North America in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the Society, being desirous of discovering traces of this colony, entered into correspondence with several learned men in North America. From them it obtained accounts of a building and other monuments, and more especially of antiquities found at various places, part of which furnish clear evidence of the Northmen's residence in North America, while others awaken a lively interest by their great similarity to Scandinavian antiquities. By means of the obliging assistance of its American members and friends, the Society thus obtained many very valuable specimens of antiquities, the greater part consisting of stones or urns, which, though by no means of Scandinavian origin, do yet bear a striking resemblance to them—a resemblance which must doubtless be traced chiefly to the circumstance, that human beings placed in the same degree of civilization and, as in the case of North America, under similar influences in regard to climate, have had recourse to the same instruments, and have fabricated them in a similar fashion. The articles thus received from America were found to be so illustrative, that the Society resolved to avail itself henceforward of its connexions with that part of the world, in order to bring together as complete a collection as possible of all kinds of American antiquities, which must prove so much the more interesting as the number of such collections at present to be found in Europe is very limited.

As the Society had already collected a large quantity of objects, a plan was submitted to his Majesty the King of Denmark, who was most graciously pleased to approve of it, and to sanction the institution of a special museum, for the use of which a room has been set apart in the palace of Christiansburg, immediately adjoining that occupied by the Museum of Northern Antiquities, but from which the American Museum will at all times be kept perfectly distinct.

The contents of this museum, which is intended to contain all such antiquities, from any part of America, as the Society may receive, will soon be classed as follows:—*European Antiquities*

from America; Esquimaux Antiquities; Indian Articles, from North America; Mexican Antiquities; Carib Articles from the Antilles; and Indian Articles from South America.

I will now mention the most important of the articles previously possessed by the Society, and the large additions which it has received during the last year.

EUROPEAN ANTIQUITIES FROM AMERICA, from the Ante-Columbian times of that hemisphere.—Of antiquarian remains from the Icelanders and Northmen in Greenland, the museum already possesses a considerable quantity, which will serve as a foundation for this division. The remarkable Runic stone from Kingiktorsoak (an island situated in Baffin's Bay, in N. lat. $72^{\circ} 55'$), together with two other inscription-stones from Igaliko and Ikigeit (of which delineations are contained in *Rafn's Antiquitates Americanae*, tab. viii.; see also pp. 340-355 of the same work), and the fragments, found in Greenland, of stones with Icelandic inscriptions, in Runes or Latin characters, serve as indubitable proofs of the origin of the articles found along with them. As the most important of such antiquities we may here mention the collection of articles found in the churchyard of Ikigeit, which place had previously remained undiscovered and undisturbed, but which on that occasion was carefully examined under the guidance and inspection of M. Kielsen. More detailed accounts of this interesting examination and its results are to be found in the Society's Annals of Northern Archæology, 1842-1843. Not only inscription-stones in the old Danish tongue, and with the Christian Cross, but also several dresses (one of them almost entire) made of a coarse four-threaded woollen stuff, precisely like those that have been found in old Scandinavian graves, were discovered, as likewise fragments of coffins made of drift-wood, vessels of pot-stone and metal, and several iron implements. Along with the above articles may be classed the entirely similar ones which the Rev. George F. Tørgensen discovered in the churchyards at Igaliko, Kaksiarsoak, and Kakortok. (See Annals of N. Archæol., 1838-1839, and 1842-1843.) The articles obtained from these churchyards, which demonstrably owe their origin to Northmen—whose bodies moreover, by their size and their hair, are easily distinguished from those of the Esquimaux—are in considerable quantity, and will enable us to assign other articles of the same sort, received without historical elucidations, to their proper class.

By means of a gradually-acquired experience we can now, with tolerable certainty, distinguish the **ESQUIMAUX** from the **SCANDINAVIAN ANTIQUITIES**. The most remarkable of them consist principally in implements of bone or stone, which the Esquimaux in default of metal had been obliged to use. As

they are of a much later date, so they are also found in much greater quantity than the Scandinavian antiquities; and in almost all the antiquarian reports contained in the volumes of the Society's Annals, mention is made of Esquimaux antiquities having been sent to the Society, viz. harpoon-points, arrow-heads of chalcedony or angmak (?), javelins and dart-points of stone and bone; vessels and lamps of pot-stone, &c. As one of the most valuable collections received in 1843, we may here particularly mention that sent by Mr. Möller of Holsteinburg. It contained, among other articles, harpoons entirely made of bone, and which were of so large a size that we must suppose they were used against whales, and not merely against seals; also a small piece of Scandinavian bell-metal from the Ante-Columbian times, which the Esquimaux had attempted to form into an arrow-head; a knife entirely made of bone and polished, and several implements of bone different from those now in use.

Of INDIAN ANTIQUITIES FROM NORTH AMERICA, the Society has from time to time received considerable collections from Mr. Woodside, Dr. Webb, Dr. Jerome V. C. Smith, Dr. Swift, Jacob G. Morris, Esq., Dr. Jacob Porter, Charles Hammond, Esq., and others, of all of which, detailed accounts are given in the Society's Annual Reports from 1838 to 1842. Almost all the articles received are such as have been dug up in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, or Ohio, and consist chiefly of stone implements, which bear a remarkable resemblance to our Scandinavian antiquities of the stone age. In the Annual Report for 1842 mention is made of a collection of 200 articles, received from Dr. Swift, of Easton, in Pennsylvania; and in the year 1843 there were received from the same gentleman 250 articles, not including duplicates, all found within the compass of a space, not exceeding 2 acres in extent, on the banks of the Delaware, 5 miles below Easton. Dr. Swift was of opinion that the spot in question had been inhabited by a fixed tribe, which had occupied itself in the fabrication of stone implements, for the purpose of bartering them with other Indians who had not so easy an access to the materials, or perhaps had not acquired the same dexterity in their fabrication; a supposition rendered the more probable from the very great quantity of jasper and flint found in that locality. A very valuable collection of North American antiquities has likewise been transmitted by Charles Hammond, Esq., of Boston: the greater part is of stone, but some few are of bone and bronze; there were also several curious urns of burnt clay, some of them found at Dresden in Maine, others in Indian burying-places near Nahant, Middleburg and Rochester, Massachusetts, and some at Middletown in Connecticut. Some of these bear a great resemblance to our Northern articles from the stone age;

and here we must consider it as a very fortunate circumstance that Mr. Hammond has kept the articles found at different places carefully distinct from each other, and has accurately noted the localities where they severally were found. In this collection, which contains 300 articles, the most remarkable in point of shape and workmanship are the urns, some of which are of black clay, and others of red; and one of them in particular is ornamented both in the interior and on the edges with engraved figures. The collection also contains several axes and wedges, several deeply-hollowed gouges of different sorts of stone, and a considerable number of arrow-heads of flint, petrosilex, and white quartz, of various shapes, resembling occasionally our Scandinavian ones. Some more bulky articles were also included, such as a large stone vessel of nearly 3 feet in diameter, found in 1799 near Assawamsit, and which had probably been employed for grinding corn; and two stone mortars or corn-crushers of serpentine and granite, which, together with the pestles belonging to them, were dug up at Mattapoisett in Massachusetts. Several stone articles were likewise received from Dr. Jacob Porter and Dr. Jerome V. C. Smith; which, with the remarkable bronze antiquities and articles of dress, found on human skeletons at Fall River in Massachusetts, and similar specimens received in the preceding years, are mentioned in the Annual Reports for 1838 and 1842, and form the subject of a disquisition by Thomas H. Webb and Charles C. Rafn, inserted in the Society's *Mémoires* for 1840-1844, p. 104-119, tab. v. In addition to these articles the Society has received from Dr. Smith a fragment of a bronze plate found on the breast of a skeleton, several bronze tubes belonging to a belt, an arrow-head of bronze with the shaft belonging to it of wood, some fragments of leather, and of cloth woven of bulrushes.

Of **MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES**, the Society received in 1843, from Professor Hegewish, some flakes (splinters) of obsidian quite like the Northern flint flakes, and a piece of obsidian from which these had been struck off, precisely similar to those found in the North. Next to these will be placed antiquities from California (see Annual Report for 1841, p. 6); and next to those of the Esquimaux will be arranged articles from Russian America, particularly from the Aleutian Isles, which in their turn will receive elucidation from a comparison with sundry Asiatic antiquities—such as those from Siberia, from the Kurile Islands, and from Japan, which are to be found mentioned in the Annual Report for 1838.

Of **CARIB ARTICLES**, the museum possesses only a small number, but it is to be hoped that the Society's connexion with the Antilles will lead to their increase. His Majesty the King of Denmark some time ago presented the Society with a battle-

axe or mace $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, fabricated in a most masterly manner of greenstone, in a form not hitherto met with, that reminds us of the ass's jaw-bone of Samson. This beautiful specimen was dug up at Porto Rico, and presented to his Majesty by Governor Scholten. In a lagune in the vicinity of Frederick's Fort, at St. Croix, was found a remarkable wedge of green stone porphyry, nearly 14 inches in length, which the commandant of that fort, Capt. Julius Castonier, has lately presented to the Society. The Society had previously received from Capt. T. A. Kiar eight different wedges of the same sort of stone, perfectly similar to the Northern ones, and which had been found in the Virgin Isles.

INDIAN ANTIQUITIES FROM SOUTH AMERICA have been on several occasions sent to the Society from the Brazils by Dr. Lund (see his *Essay* in the Society's *Annals* for 1838-1839, p. 159, ff., and *Annual Report* for 1841). Mr. Virgil von Helmreichen, naturalist from Austria, who is at present travelling in the Brazils, has sent to the Society two lance-shaped stone arrow-heads, which in 1841 were found in Cidade Diamantina, formerly called Tejuco, in the province of Minas Geraes. They were both obtained in the process of washing the diamond-yielding cascalho, a soil composed of sand and small stones, and on both occasions were found in the *batia* or washing-tub. It was not possible for Mr. Helmreichen to ascertain with any degree of certainty whether they had been imbedded in the cascalho stratum itself, or in the alluvial formation which encrusted it. One of these arrow-heads, which is of petrosilex, came from the Corrego de Provonçao, and the other, which is of rock-crystal, from the Riberão do Pinheiro, about 200 fathoms from the place where the former stream, in its progress from the S., falls into the latter. Respecting the age of these arrow-heads, Mr. Helmreichen dares not venture to offer any opinion; this much, however, is certain, that the Indians now inhabiting the province of Minas Geraes fabricate their arrow-heads of wood and jacoara, and do not make use of stone for that purpose. From Chili, Dr. Kröyer brought a silver pincer; and from Peru, the Rev. Dines Pontoppidan brought five antique vases—all of them mentioned in the *Annual Report* for 1841; and in a separate essay, illustrated with engravings, in the Society's *Mémoires*, 1840-1844, where, at p. 161, a representation is given of the Chilesian pincer in juxtaposition with one of bronze found in Denmark. Capt. Suensen, R.N., has presented to the Society a small globular body of bronze, which on the one side is ornamented with a face, above which are one small and two larger rings. It is half an inch (?) in diameter, and was found in the district of Lima. Mr. Pontoppidan brought also from California a bow and six arrows with points of black or green obsidian and some of rock-crystal.

After having given this general view of the American antiquities already in the possession of the Museum, we have only further to add that Mr. Uhde, in Mexico, has offered to present to the Society a collection of Mexican antiquities; and that, according to a letter from Mr. Witt, the Danish Consul in Peru, an arrangement has been entered into with the Director of the National Museum in Lima, agreeably to which he has consented to cede to the Museum a collection of Peruvian antiquities on receiving an equivalent in minerals of northern Europe, and other articles of scientific interest from this quarter.

II.—*Geographical and Statistical Notices, particularly on the Rhône and Geneva.* Being extracts from a letter from Professor CHAIX, Cor. Mem. R.G.S., &c., at Geneva.

AMONG late geographical works I must specially mention Mr. Forbes's 'Travels through the Alps of Savoy,' &c.: it is by far the best thing that has for a long time been written on our Alps either by natives or foreigners. Mr. Forbes has proved himself a worthy successor of De Saussure by his modesty, his keenness of observation, his absence of charlatanry, and laborious researches. He clearly shows the defects of the explanations of Agassiz, Venets, &c., of the progress of glaciers, though there may also be some slight objections to his own. It is now much the fashion to visit the little pole on the glacier of the Aar, and a great noise is made about it. But it appears to me that after much good and sound work, M. Agassiz, though a man of great ability, will not find a lasting theory; his satellites will vanish, and we shall come back to an explanation not very different from that of Mr. Forbes, of M. de Saussure, and of M. Rendu, the present Bishop of Annecy. Mr. Forbes is a very bold and indefatigable explorer, and not many will dare to follow him everywhere he has been.

A short paper by M. Guinand, Professor of Geography at Lausanne, under the title of 'Vallée de la Viége,' has also been published on a part of the ground gone over by Professor Forbes; but this essay is merely confined to a few remarks on the history, picturesque nature, and general geography of that valley, which extends from the foot of Mount Cervin and Mount Rose to the banks of the Rhône at Viége (Visp); it is not in any way to be compared with Professor Forbes's excellent book.

I do not give you any account of the progress of observations made on the glaciers by M. Agassiz and his friends, as I presume you are directly supplied by your corresponding member at Neuchâtel with every information on this subject. A meteoro-